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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicants:	B. Bhat, et al.		
Int. Appln. No:	PCT/US03/21589		
Int. Filing Date:	11 July 2003		
US Appln. No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.:	21135P
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith		
For:	NUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS OF RNA-DEPENDENT RNA VIRAL POLYMERASE		

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected on page 2 of this response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this response.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this response.

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**  
DATE OF DEPOSIT Jan 7, 2005  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. 9542131231205  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
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ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO  
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MAILED BY Ron Schep  
DATE Jan 7, 2005